

The New San Diego Central Library Hosted Space Foundation's Audience with an Astronaut for e³Civic High and Spaceport Academy

San Diego, CA (October 7, 2013) - On Friday, October 4, 30 students from throughout San Diego County kicked off the global celebration of World Space Week in a Google Hangout with former NASA Astronaut Leroy Chiao, PhD. Space Foundation Teacher Liaison María Catalina brought Spaceport Academy members to the newly opened San Diego Central Library @ the Joan A Irwin Jacobs Common, in the Wells Fargo Technology Learning Center, where they joined e³Civic High students for an Audience with an Astronaut!



Based in Houston, Chiao is the Space Foundation's special advisor-human spaceflight. His Space Shuttle missions include: STS-92 Discovery, Oct. 11-24, 2000; STS-72 Endeavour, Jan. 11-20, 1996; STS-65 Columbia, July 8-23, 1994. In addition, he flew as Flight Engineer 1 aboard Soyuz TMA-5 to the ISS, where he served as commander and NASA science officer for Expedition 10. He lived on the ISS for six and a half months.

Among the youth that were inspired by Chiao were members of Spaceport Academy and students at e³Civic High, San Diego's newest high school that opened last month. "With the infusion of technology into our educational system, the possibilities of providing students with exciting, innovative and creative learning opportunities are limitless," commented Sandra Hodge, Public Relations Officer of Spaceport Academy. She goes on to say that "as businesses, community groups, corporations, and civic leaders join together in the education of our youth, a millennial world can be created."

"Innovation is the operative word," says Catalina, founder of the Astronaut Teacher Alliance which creates Spaceport Academies around the world. "We further the concept of participatory education by training teachers to take students on an expeditionary journey, whether virtually or in real-time." An example is the Spaceport Academies at Montgomery and Mar Vista High Schools of the Sweetwater Union High School District that will join in at the Audience with an Astronaut. Students from these schools are participating engineers in the Google Lunar X Prize Team Synergy Moon, the only team that has students building the hardware to send a rover to the lunar surface!

About e³ Civic High

The mission of e³ Civic High is to engage the students of urban San Diego in a successful high school experience by providing a meaningful college and career preparatory education focused on a broad spectrum of 21st Century literacy. We will achieve this mission by ensuring personalized learning partnerships for each student, both at school and in the community, that foster their self-worth, individual passion,

creativity, and ability to lead in service to others. Billed as the only school in the nation housed in a library, e3 Civic High promises an innovative education that draws heavily on the resources of downtown. Students will serve professional internships, conduct job shadowing and have the chance to graduate with both a diploma and a community college degree.

About Space Foundation Teacher Liaisons

The Space Foundation's Audience with an Astronaut program brings astronauts to speak to the classes of Space Foundation Teacher Liaisons nationwide. Teacher Liaisons are chosen for their integration of space themes in the classroom, and the Space Foundation is now accepting online applications for Teacher Liaisons through Dec. 6 at www.spacefoundation.org/education.

About the Space Foundation

Founded in 1983, the Space Foundation is the foremost advocate for all sectors of space, and is a global, nonprofit leader in space awareness activities, educational programs and major industry events, including the annual [Space Symposium](#), all in support of its mission "to advance space-related endeavors to inspire, enable and propel humanity." Space Foundation world headquarters in Colorado Springs, Colo., features a public [Discovery Center](#) including the El Pomar Space Gallery and the Northrop Grumman Science Center featuring Science On a Sphere®, and is a member of the American Alliance of Museums. The Space Foundation has a field office in Houston, and from its Washington, D.C., office, conducts government affairs, publishes [The Space Report: The Authoritative Guide to Global Space Activity](#) and provides three [indexes](#) that track daily U.S. stock market performance of the space industry. Through its [Space Certification](#)™ and [Space Technology Hall of Fame®](#) programs, the Space Foundation recognizes space-based technologies and innovations that have been adapted to improve life on Earth. Visit www.SpaceFoundation.org, follow us on [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Pinterest](#) and [Twitter](#), and read our e-newsletter [Space Watch](#).

San Diego Central Library @ the Joan A Irwin Jacobs Common

The new Central Library, which opened on September 30, 2013, is San Diego's new civic icon that embodies the city's commitment to the future. It is the heart of San Diego's 35-branch library system and serves as a new regional center for learning and literacy. It is already a major destination and gathering place for the community with its small and large meeting spaces, innovative technology, public art throughout the facility, and integration of an onsite charter high school.

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